

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD**

2 **MEETING HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

3 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

4 **JUNE 14, 2021**

5 **MINUTES**

6 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT BY VIDEOCONFERENCE:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne  
7 Conner-Vice Chair; Jim Carroll; Bruce Lee-Clark; Sarah Perrin; Tom Haley; and Gary Corey.

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

9 **ALSO PRESENT BY VIDEOCONFERENCE:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant  
10 Town Manager; Shannon Barsotti-Community Development Director; Dr. Trey Dobson-Chief  
11 Medical Officer-SVMC and Megan Herrington-Vermont Department of Health District  
12 Director(COVID Update); Dare Chamings-Director, Glauke Coojmans-Alysa Irizarry-Alliance for  
13 Community Transformation, Colin Joyce, Lucy Poole, and Thomas Saunders(ACT Youth  
14 Leadership Group); Stephanie Lane-Executive Director Shires Housing, David Riegel-Executive  
15 Director Vermont Foundation of Recovery, Jeff Moreau-Executive Director Vermont Alliance for  
16 Recovery Residences; Ralph Bennett-Turning Point, John Rogers-Vermont Foundation of  
17 Recovery and Mission City Church, Alex Figueroa-SVMC(Recovery Housing); Josh Boucher-CAT-  
18 TV; and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

19 **PUBLIC CALL INS:** Lon McClintock; Jackie Kelly; Mike Bethel; and Nancy White.

20 At 6:00pm, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order and explained that, due to  
21 the COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency declared by Governor Scott, and pursuant to  
22 Addendum 6 to Executive Order 01-20, Act 92, this public body is authorized to meet  
23 electronically. There is no physical location to attend this meeting. Members of the public are  
24 encouraged to watch the meeting on CAT-TV Channel 1085 or on CAT-TV Facebook Live. If one  
25 wishes to participate you can also join the meeting as by clicking on the Zoom link on the  
26 Town's website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89448782346> or dial in at 646-558-8656 and enter  
27 the meeting ID 89448782346. Zoom attendees can attend but to speak you must use the raised  
28 hand function, and if you're on the telephone, the raise hand function is by pressing \*9. When  
29 prompted to unmute yourself hit \*6. When you speak, please state your name and town of  
30 residence. The call in information will be periodically posted on the screen and the process for  
31 calling in explained. If technology fails us, the meeting will be continued at a time and place to  
32 be determined and all votes that are not unanimous will be done with a roll call vote in  
33 accordance with the law.

34 **1. VISION STATEMENT**

35 Ms. Conner read the Town's Vision Statement that was adopted by the Select Board on  
36 August 24, 2020:

37 "Bennington is a welcoming, engaged, inclusive, resilient community where everyone  
38 regardless of identity shares in our vitality and benefits from an outstanding quality of life."

39 **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

40 **A. MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2021, MAY 24, 2021, AND JUNE 7, 2021**

41 **B. WARRANTS**

42 **C. PROCLAMATION - APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY**

43 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to approve the Consent Agenda*  
44 *with the Minutes of May 24, 2021 amended as follows:*

45 *Minutes of May 24, 2021 - Line 363, Change "Red" to "Rec"*

46 Ms. Jenkins stated that there was a Zoom Celebration on June 3, 2021 that explained  
47 the history of the Appalachian Trail with comments from various individuals where Ms. Jenkins  
48 ceremonially signed the Proclamation that designated Bennington as an Appalachian Trail  
49 Community. Much work by many people has brought this to fruition. Ms. Conner read the  
50 Proclamation as presented.

51 *The motion carried unanimously.*

52 **3. COVID UPDATE**

53 Dr. Trey Dobson-Chief Medical Officer-SVMC and Megan Herrington-Vermont  
54 Department of Health District Director did the following presentation:

- 55 • Vermont has reached 80% of those eligible that have gotten their first does of the  
56 vaccine with Bennington County at 75.6%.
- 57 • The risk of COVID is still high so efforts should be made to get the unvaccinated people  
58 vaccinated.
- 59 • It is unlikely that vaccinating school children will be mandated.
- 60 • Those vaccinated should feel comfortable not wearing a mask and co-mingling.
- 61 • Vaccines are available from 8:00am-5:00pm at Express Care 7 days/week for 12 year  
62 olds and above. Many primary care offices have expressed an interest in providing the  
63 vaccine.
- 64 • Testing currently requires an appointment but we are striving to maintain 7 days/week  
65 testing in our walk-in clinic without an appointment going forward.

66 *Board questions/comments answered by Dr. Dobson and Ms. Herrington:*

67 Mr. Carroll: Don't schools mandate other vaccinations? Yes, public schools by State declaration  
68 which we don't have for COVID 19. Private schools can require it.

69 Mr. Carroll: Has the vaccine been brought to those at work if they cannot make the hours  
70 available? Yes, we have gone to Mack Molding, local hotels, apartment complexes, and others.

71 Ms. Jenkins: What is considered safe in this changing landscape? The recommendation is that  
72 the vaccinated do not need to wear masks or social distancing but can mask if they feel more  
73 comfortable doing so. And, the unvaccinated can be "asked" to mask without being too  
74 concerned whether they do or not. "That is part of living, like you don't know if someone is  
75 carrying a firearm next to you."

76 Ms. Conner: Will doctors be testing for COVID if a respiratory condition occurs in the future?  
77 We will most likely be testing for COVID and the flu.

#### 78 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

79 Ms. Jenkins read the following Public Comment Practices to make the experience for all  
80 involved a productive and informative use of the Public Comment period at Select Board  
81 meetings:

- 82 1. Public Comment is to allow residents an opportunity to share information or  
83 make announcements that benefit the community at large.
- 84 2. The topic should **not** be related to an agenda item. If a member of the public  
85 wants to comment on an agenda item they can do so during the discussion of  
86 that item.
- 87 3. Comments should be 3 minutes or less.
- 88 4. You are required to state your name and town of residence.
- 89 5. Sharing comments, announcements and concerns are encouraged rather than  
90 asking questions. Public Comment is not a time for discussion. If you have  
91 specific questions it is best to call the Town Manager to get a full explanation  
92 and accurate information.
- 93 6. If the topic requires much discussion the item will be considered as an agenda  
94 item at a future meeting.

95 There were no Public Comments.

#### 96 **5. ACT YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP COMMUNITY DIALOGUE**

97 Dare Chammings-Director, Glauke Coojmans, Alysa Irizarry-Alliance for Community  
98 Transformation, and Middle School students Colin Joyce, Lucy Poole, and Thomas Saunders did  
99 the following presentation:

- 100 • The Leadership Group is a collaboration between the Alliance for Community  
101 Transformation (ACT) and the Mt. Anthony Middle School.

- 102 • The students involved in this were attending classes entirely remotely this past year.
- 103 • They have used the data from the 2019 Youth Risk Survey to launch action campaigns
- 104 around youth substance use and suicide prevention. This survey is done every two
- 105 years.
- 106 • These two areas are often overlooked by adults and they wanted a voice in both their
- 107 town community and their school community, as well as, meeting with others that had
- 108 like ideas to help those that may feel they have no place to turn.
- 109 • Their purpose is to decrease the number of middle schoolers involved in substance use
- 110 and considering suicide.
- 111 • Peer to peer is a very successful approach.
- 112 • Our strengths are:
  - 113 ○ 83% of students eat with at least 1 adult family member 4 times/week.
  - 114 ○ 70% of students feel there is at least one teacher or adult in the building that
  - 115 they can talk to with a problem.
  - 116 ○ 89%-90% of parents would not agree that their children are using alcohol.
  - 117 ○ 90% of students in Bennington County chose not to use vape products in the
  - 118 past month.
- 119 • Where we need to do better:
  - 120 ○ 10% of middle schoolers have ever used mail order products.
  - 121 ○ 25% of middle schoolers have felt sad or hopeless.
  - 122 ○ 50% of LGBTQ+ middle schoolers have thought about killing themselves.
- 123 • We have posted a social media campaign with a motivational image every Friday which
- 124 has gotten positive responses from everyone.
- 125 • Our Sunshine Box will bring a little bit of happiness now when everything seems so
- 126 different and negative.
- 127 • The Sunshine Box goes to students once a month - with a different theme each month -
- 128 to those who have signed up online. The boxes were handed out to the students in
- 129 their classrooms. Last month ~90 students received a Box.

130 *Board questions/comments answered by the presenters:*

131 Ms. Conner: Kudos to the middle schoolers for their wisdom.

132 Mr. Lee-Clark: What steps are being taken to address the 50% of LGBTQ+ that have considered  
133 suicide? Making those students aware that they have support, we're here for them, and  
134 making sure that resources are available to them.

135 Mr. Lee-Clark: What is the best way to get the Youth Risk Survey? All past surveys are on the  
136 Vermont Department of Health website. The 2021 Survey was delayed so it will be done in the  
137 fall.

138 **6. PUBLIC HEARING - RECOVERY HOUSING PRESENTATION**

139 Ms. Barsotti explained that the Board must approve a resolution to apply for Vermont  
140 Community Development Program Funding for Recovery Housing. If approved the funds would  
141 flow through the Town as the grantee to Shires Housing as the sub grantee.

142 Stephanie Lane-Executive Director Shires Housing, David Riegel-Executive Director  
143 Vermont Foundation of Recovery (VFOR), Jeff Moreau-Executive Director Vermont Alliance for  
144 Recovery Residences (VTARR); Ralph Bennett-Turning Point, John Rogers-Vermont Foundation  
145 of Recovery and Mission City Church, and Alex Figueroa-SVMC did the following presentation:

- 146 ➤ We currently have no beds for those in recovery and our goal is to provide housing for  
147 those in this “ecosystem”.
- 148 ➤ This would be the first 14-16 bed project in Bennington.
- 149 ➤ We are part of Hub & Spoke and everyone is directed to go to Rutland or out of state.
- 150 ➤ We have been running a weekly ‘Celebrate Recovery’ meeting for 22 years especially  
151 for those that are seeking sobriety from substances and alcohol.
- 152 ➤ Substances are the #1 killer for those under 50, and if you add alcohol, it’s the 4<sup>th</sup>  
153 overall killer.
- 154 ➤ Recovery housing gives people a safe place to live in a home environment, we make  
155 them accountable which involves random drug testing, make sure they’re compliant,  
156 and “plug them into the community” for whatever resources they need.
- 157 ➤ The two buildings that we are seeking funding for are the Squires House at 185 North  
158 Street to serve 9 women and 612 Gage Street to serve 8 men for 8-14 months before  
159 transitioning out into the community.
- 160 ➤ Each house would have a house manager who is in long term recovery and a certified  
161 recovery coach.
- 162 ➤ Each participant will sign a contract of the rules that they must follow, as well as,  
163 payment to support the operation of the house.
- 164 ➤ All resources involved with the recovery process will be utilized with Shires Housing  
165 taking care of the “brick and mortar” piece.
- 166 ➤ We have been working on this project since 2018 with multiple partnerships within the  
167 community.

168 *Board comments/questions answered by the presenters:*

169 Mr. Lee-Clark: Helped set up a similar model over 25 years ago. “This is not a new model but a  
170 very successful model.”

171 Mr. Carroll: Thanked everyone for their work and would like a portion of the future cannabis  
172 sales to go toward long term funding for these projects. Have you considered long term  
173 funding and will HUB & SPOKE be included in their treatments? VFOR currently has 6 houses  
174 that have been operating and funded since 2013 by fundraising, events, ADAP, SAMSHA, and  
175 scholarships for participants. Going forward, the cannabis funding idea is very exciting, and  
176 HUB & SPOKE, as well as, others will be involved for their particular expertise.

177 Mr. Carroll: What are the SPOKES of the HUB? SAVITA and any primary doctor in town is a  
178 SPOKE.

179 Mr. Carroll: Added that compassion is what motivates everyone to help those that are addicted.

180 Mr. Corey: Thanked everyone for their work. Would both the men and women come through  
181 Turning Point? Would Bennington residents be prioritized? We would not exclude anyone  
182 because they did not come through Turning Point and participants are placed where the  
183 experience will best fit their needs, which may not be in a house in their town of residence.

184 Ms. Perrin: Thanked everyone for their work. Is it possible to submit the application without  
185 indicating the address of the housing until the community has learned more about this? Yes, it  
186 is possible to eliminate the addresses, however, we want to be transparent about what we're  
187 doing and where we're doing it.

188 Ms. Perrin: Are there examples of where recovery housing would be near a rec center? Yes, it is  
189 important to have these houses blend into the community and be near services since their  
190 residents may not have transportation. There is a grievance and appeal process for the  
191 neighbors, as well as, a good neighbor policy for the participants, which if not adhered to, could  
192 lose the house their certification. No participants are placed in recovery housing that have a  
193 history of arson or are on the sex offender list.

194 *Public comments/questions answered by the presenters:*

195 Lon McClintock: Owns the Squires House with Nora Parsons, and shared his personal  
196 experiences with alcoholism and the importance of recovery housing to transition back into the  
197 community with a new identity and meaningful relationships.

198 Dare Chammings: Will children be living in the houses? Yes, children could live in the women's  
199 facility and children can visit in the men's facility. It involves many layers to have children living  
200 in the houses plus it is important for the participants to focus on their own recovery and  
201 introduce family members later.

202 Jackie Kelly: By placing the houses in the downtown, aren't you putting them next to the  
203 sources of their addictions? The recovery process is peer supported and connections so the  
204 participants are surrounded by those in long term recovery regardless of the street that they're  
205 on so people can be successful in their recovery. Why is the Town's relationship always with  
206 Shires Housing and don't other housing businesses bid on these projects? Ms. Barsotti stated  
207 because the State is looking for experienced housing developers and Shires Housing is generally  
208 the only one we have in town at this time. Mr. Hurd added that the Town doesn't go out to bid  
209 on these projects - those interested in doing these projects come to us as the money has to  
210 flow through the Town.

211 Mike Bethel: After hearing tonight's presentation, has changed his mind on the projects and  
212 suggested that another presentation be done at an in-person Select Board meeting. Will Shires

213 Housing be there to help people transition out of the recovery housing into community  
214 housing? Yes, we will be part of the long term solution. There are grants available if someone  
215 needs financial assistance along with several other organizations that will be part of the  
216 transition.

217 Nancy White: Will there be staffing 24/7? There won't be staffing present in the Squires House  
218 24/7 because these are people's homes with a home environment, however, there is staff  
219 available 24/7 if needed. And, there will be a live-in house manager at Gage Street.

220 Why isn't Turning Point running both houses? We are all working as a team so there is local and  
221 state presence everywhere.

222 Will out-of-state individuals be placed in the houses? Yes, people can apply from other states  
223 but placement is on a case-by-case basis.

224 ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Tom Haley seconded to approve the application to the***  
225 ***Vermont Community Development Program for funding of Recovery Housing at 185 North***  
226 ***Street and 612 Gage Street as submitted and authorize the Chair to sign the Resolution on***  
227 ***behalf of the Board.***

228 Ms. Perrin is in favor of the first application for \$500,000 for the purchase of a property  
229 in Bennington for use of Recovery Housing for male participants at the Turning Point centers  
230 and possibly having community members weigh in on the location.

231 ***The motion carried with Sarah Perrin opposed.***

232 Ms. Perrin was hesitant to vote against the motion but wanted community members to  
233 weigh in on the location.

## 234 **7. COMMUNITY POLICING**

### 235 **1. CREATING AND MAINTAINING COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS - 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

236 Mr. Lee-Clark reviewed the following:

- 237 ○ II POLICY, Page 2, B. Line 10, Change "institution." to "institution. The MOU shall  
238 thoroughly address and carefully describe the specific roles and responsibilities  
239 of the particular "partners."
- 240 ○ III DEFINITIONS, Page 3, B. Line 7, Change, "time." to "time. The use of the terms  
241 "partnership" and "equal partners" is not intended to create expectations of a  
242 legal relationship that does not accurately reflect the statutory duties and  
243 powers of a police department and sworn officers."
- 244 ○ We are making policy for the Police Department saying that they need to be in  
245 partnership with other community agencies and there is a particular way to pull  
246 that off.
- 247 ○ Send any comments or typos to Mr. Lee-Clark by 6/22/21.

248 **2. SAFETY AND EQUITY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL**

249 Ms. Jenkins stated the following:

- 250 ✓ This is a revised proposal that 15 different individuals or organizations weighed in on.  
251 ✓ The proposal is for up to 11 community members who will develop the details for the  
252 Town's Safety and Equity Decision-Making Board with four areas of focus.  
253 ✓ The areas of focus are:  
254     ▪ Recommendations on Training and Collaboration  
255     ▪ Policy and Procedures  
256     ▪ Review of Complaints  
257     ▪ Data Analysis  
258 ✓ The Community Policing Task Force has done a lot of reading and talked to many  
259 organizations, such as - IACP; Attorney General's Civil Rights Division; NACOLE; Vermont  
260 Partnership for Fairness and Diversity; Vermont State Police, as well as, with many  
261 different communities, such as - Ferguson, Missouri; Athens, Georgia; and several in  
262 Vermont.  
263 ✓ The 6-month window includes everything from the training through the  
264 recommendations submitted to the Select Board.  
265 ✓ If the Proposal and NACOLE Scope of Work are approved tonight we plan to meet with  
266 NACOLE on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

267 *Board comments/question answered by Ms. Jenkins:*

268 Ms. Conner: Added that the time frame from July 15<sup>th</sup> to May is a long time but our goal is to  
269 get it right, not get it fast.

270 Ms. Perrin: Will we get the citizen comments? They are in the online packet but were not  
271 included in the paper packet. All comments were addressed.

272 Ms. Perrin: Is concerned that the required 7.5 hours of criminal justice training will exclude  
273 some people. We were told by every community that everyone must understand how the  
274 criminal justice system works. The 7.5 hours is in 3 separate trainings with some on Zoom and  
275 some in person.

276 Ms. Perrin: Will the July 15<sup>th</sup> training be in person? It is a possibility but would only be with our  
277 Cambridge trainer unless we wait until August to also have the Indianapolis trainer present.  
278 There are dollars in the NACOLE agreement for travel but Indianapolis seems to be out of our  
279 price range.

280 Mr. Haley: Is concerned that we may still not be including a segment of our population - will we  
281 be addressing that? The Task Force is self-organizing and working together, so their first task  
282 would be to schedule their meetings to accommodate everyone. Mr. Lee-Clark added that the  
283 Board will be naming the people that will be on the Task Force and feels that we could make it



284 possible for everyone named to participate. Ms. Conner noted that the Task Force could make  
285 it possible for someone to participate without being on the Task Force, itself.

286 Mr. Carroll: Couldn't there be some accommodation with Zoom? Yes, that's a good suggestion.

### 287 **3. NACOLE SCOPE OF WORK**

288 Ms. Conner stated the following:

- 289 ✓ The NACOLE Scope of Work is included in the Select Board materials on the Town's  
290 website.
- 291 ✓ NACOLE = National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.
- 292 ✓ Their Scope of Work is:
  - 293 1. Formulate and deliver a one-hour initial training program for Town of Bennington,  
294 Vermont on July 15<sup>th</sup> that is for anyone that wants to attend.
  - 295 2. Formulate and deliver a six-hour training program for Town of Bennington, Vermont's  
296 Task Force to Develop Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.
  - 297 3. Provide up to 16 hours of support and assistance to Task Force members working to  
298 establish recommendations for a civilian oversight mechanism for the Town of  
299 Bennington.
- 300 ✓ The fee for the Scope of Work is \$8,575.
- 301 ✓ Included within the \$8,575 is \$2,375 for 5 in-person trips. We will not pay for any trips  
302 that do not take place.
- 303 ✓ They are a national organization that comes with experience with communities that  
304 have stumbled through the process so we will benefit from not having to stumble, as  
305 well.

306 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the Task Force Proposal*  
307 *and the NACOLE Scope of Work as presented.*

308 Mr. Lee-Clark stated that NACOLE has come highly recommended by every other  
309 organization that he has spoken to.

310 *The motion carried unanimously.*

### 311 **8. COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR POSITION**

312 Ms. Jenkins explained that we have split out the website upgrade re-do piece from the  
313 now named Communications Coordinator position which was previously named Public  
314 Relations.

315 Mr. Hurd added that this position will help us improve our communication abilities and  
316 wants to hire this individual before we do the website upgrade.

317 *Board comments/questions answered by Mr. Hurd:*

318 Ms. Conner: Should the Communications Coordinator not only create regular social media  
319 postings but monitor what people are posting, as well? Ms. Barsotti noted that we already have  
320 staff that are doing that. And, Mr. Hurd added that this position would be taking in all of the  
321 questions that the staff person has raised.

322 Mr. Corey: Do you think this position requires a full time person? Yes. We currently contract for  
323 management of the Police website, the Town's website, the Planning and Zoning website, and  
324 the Town Clerk website. We also have current staff taking in all of the questions that need to  
325 be addressed and this position would be getting the information from all departments in a  
326 more timely fashion.

327 Mr. Corey: Will the funds come from current staff that are doing this job? We will be paying this  
328 person from excess funds from our Recreation budget for operating supplies that have not  
329 been utilized. Current staff have been performing every added responsibility that has been  
330 asked of them over the years without additional compensation. Taxes will not be raised to pay  
331 for this position now, or in future years.

332 Mr. Haley: Many people don't realize what is involved in this day and age with this type of work  
333 and to keep loading it onto existing staff is not correct. One person gives us a single voice and  
334 accountability. He is in favor of the changes that have been made to the position.

335 Mr. Carroll: This will eliminate much of the criticism of the Town Office.

336 Ms. Conner: It makes perfect sense to hire someone specifically for this position than to keep  
337 asking others to do what they weren't hired to do.

338 Ms. Perrin: Sees the position as being helpful, it should be a part time or job share position, and  
339 doesn't feel that it should come from the Rec Center budget. Mr. Hurd explained that the  
340 funds will be coming from unused dollars in the Rec Center budget during FY21. In FY22, this  
341 position will be part of the Community Development Department budget shown as additional  
342 personnel.

343 Ms. Perrin: Feels the extra dollars in the Rec Center budget should go for Rec Center growth,  
344 and Ms. Barsotti noted that those dollars were not used because we have a contract with the  
345 YMCA and our recreational growth is through them.

346 Mr. Lee-Clark: You get the best candidate for a full time job, not a part time job. We need to  
347 give this our full support now because we will know soon enough if this is money well spent.

348 *Tom Haley moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to approve the Communications*  
349 *Coordinator position as proposed. The motion carried with Sarah Perrin opposed.*

350 Ms. Perrin supports the position but would like to see it a job share or part time.

351 **9. MASK RESOLUTION RESCISSION**

352 Ms. Jenkins stated that the Mask Resolution put into place in May and June 2020 is  
353 moot because the Governor has lifted the State of Emergency. No Board action is needed.

354 **10. BOARDS & COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS**

355 *Jeanne Conner moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to approve the following*  
356 *appointments to the 2021 Boards and Commissions:*

357	<i>Development Review Board</i>	<i>Charles Copp</i>	<i>3 year term</i>
358		<i>Catherine Bryars</i>	<i>3 year term</i>
359		<i>Robert Ebert</i>	<i>1 year Alternate seat</i>
360	<i>Historic Preservation</i>	<i>Anne Bugbee</i>	<i>3 year term</i>
361		<i>Mike McDonough</i>	<i>3 year term</i>
362		<i>Sarah Krinsky</i>	<i>3 year term</i>
363		<i>Robert Tegart</i>	<i>3 year term</i>
364		<i>Neil Ritter</i>	<i>3 year term</i>
365	<i>Housing Authority</i>	<i>Rosemary Morrison</i>	<i>5 year term</i>
366	<i>Planning Commission</i>	<i>Mike McDonough</i>	<i>4 year term</i>
367		<i>Bruce Lierman</i>	<i>4 year term</i>
368	<i>Energy Committee</i>	<i>Al Bashevkin</i>	<i>2 year term</i>
369		<i>Deanna Oakes</i>	<i>2 year term</i>
370		<i>Michael Kuser</i>	<i>2 year term</i>
371		<i>Bill Christian</i>	<i>3 year term (to begin</i>
372	<i>when</i>		
373			<i>officially a resident)</i>
374		<i>Bill Karis</i>	<i>3 year term</i>
375		<i>Bruce Lierman</i>	<i>3 year term</i>
376	<i>Regional Commission</i>	<i>Donald Campbell</i>	<i>2 year term</i>
377	<i>Bennington Free Library Town Liaison</i>	<i>Tom Haley</i>	<i>1 year term, non-</i>
378	<i>voting</i>		
379	<i>Better Bennington Corp. Town Liaison</i>	<i>Jeannie Jenkins</i>	<i>1 year term, non-</i>
380	<i>voting</i>		

381            *Energy Committee Member*            *Bruce Lee-Clark*            *1 year term, voting*  
382 *member*  
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*The motion carried unanimously.*

*non-office holding*

## 11. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Hurd reported the following:

- We need to set a Water and Sewer Work Session for a weekday evening next week.
- Summer Home Brew Fest Street Closing - We have a request to close Depot Street from 7:00am until 6:00pm from the Depot Street entrance to the parking lot north to the pedestrian crossing at the River Walk on August 7<sup>th</sup> for the Brew Fest. Chief Doucette has no concerns. This will be voted on at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Select Board Meetings Return - Ms. Jenkins stated that the Board will not be masked, chairs will be spaced further apart, we will have masks and wipes available, open the windows for more ventilation, and maintain the Zoom link if people prefer to do that rather than come to the meeting. The additional spacing will create a smaller capacity than usual. If a person has not been vaccinated they can phone in if they wish to speak or wear a mask at the in-person meeting. Mr. Carroll asked if there would be plexiglass barriers for the unvaccinated that refuse to wear a mask and what kind of enforcement will there be for that? Ms. Jenkins responded that we are working on the honor system and can only ask someone to wear a mask. We are setting up the spacing so there is a level of comfort. Dr. Dobson has said that because the vaccination rate is so high that the only people at risk are the unvaccinated. Mr. Hurd added that there will be police presence as before should there be unruly behavior.
- Town Offices Reopening - Vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask and the unvaccinated are asked to.

Additional items:

- Ms. Barsotti: Work will begin on Franklin Lane the spring of 2021, and not 2022, as was mentioned in her report.

## 12. UPCOMING AGENDA

June 28, 2021 - Better Bennington Corporation Work Plan and Budget

June 28, 2021 - Set the Water and Sewer Rates

June 28, 2021 - 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of the Care and Control of Animals

June 28, 2021 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on Creating and Maintaining Collaborative Partnerships

June 28, 2021 - Sidewalk Sub-Committee Report

415 **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

416 Mr. Lee-Clark: Reminded everyone that you can still get fluorescent home numbers for  
417 \$3.00/number by calling the Bennington Fire Department.

418 Ms. Conner: Curtiss Reed, Executive Director of Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity,  
419 who has worked with the Town for nearly 2 years, received an Honorary Degree from  
420 Middlebury for his work in Civil Rights in Vermont. They stated that "He is a champion in equity  
421 and inclusion."

422 Mr. Haley: Noted that CAT-TV either won or were nominated for the Unsung Heroes Award for  
423 their work during COVID. Kudos to CAT-TV.

424 Mr. Carroll: Spoke to the success and fun that is had at the Splash Pad.

425 Ms. Jenkins: Noted that the first event at the Splash Pad was excellent with the performances  
426 by Soul Steps, the Vermont Arts Exchange band, and the flow dancer. Also, thanks to CAT-TV  
427 for their coverage of a 3 ½ hour meeting this evening.

428 Ms. Perrin: Encouraged everyone to be kind to each other during our next in-person meeting.

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430 *At 9:26pm, Sarah Perrin moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded the adjournment of the*  
431 *meeting. The motion carried unanimously.*

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435

436 Respectfully submitted,

437 Nancy H. Lively

438 Secretary

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